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22a NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL Dr. Joann Milliken		226 TELEPHONE ( (703) 696	Include Area Code) 5–4409	ONR		

The Behavior of Polymers Filled with Monodisperse Polymeric Beads

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Justification

Ronald Salovey and John J. Aklonis, Principal Investigators

Departments of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry University of Southern California Los Angeles, California 90089-1211

## FINAL REPORT

Techniques have been developed for preparing crosslinked spherical polymer beads, monodisperse in size, composed of polystyrene and derivatives, polymethyl mechacrylate (PMMA), polyethyl methacrylate, polybutyl methacrylate and polymethylacrylonitrile [1-3]. Control of the crosslink density gradient was acheived by semi-continuous copolymerization [4, 5]. Monodisperse bead diameters are controlled between 150-800 nm in a single stage synthesis, with sizes reproducible to  $\pm$  5 nm in a given run and crosslink densities vary from 1-20 mol%. Particle nucleation onto preexisting polymer seeds was conducted in a multistage polymerization yielding compositionally complex beads up to 4  $\mu$ m in diameter [6].

Beads are characterized by a wide variety of techniques. A new procedure has been developed to determine the crosslink density by equilibrium swelling on an ultrafiltration membrane [4].

Techniques for mixing polymer beads and polymer matrices have been developed [7]. The rheological properties of polymeric composites, of beads and matrices, are often insenstivie to the size and crosslink density of the beads [8]. Rheological changes are particularly sensitive to chemical composition in a polar matrix. In general, reduced rheological increases are realized for composites in which bead and matrix are compatible [9, 10]. The steady shear viscosity of composites, consisting of a PMMA matrix, filled with 20% of crosslinked beads of varied composition, exhibits time dependent increases on aging following shearing [10].

Changes in steady shear viscosity and dynamic moduli depend on the dispersion of particles in a polymeric matrix. Incompatible particles form large clusters, which are destroyed at high shear rate, producing a highly non-Newtonian response. Clusters reform rapdily on aging at elevated temperatures. For compatible composites, crosslinked particles are randomly dispersed on mixing and remain so on aging, producing (almost) Newtonian behavior.

## **Technical Reports and Journal Articles**

- 1. D. Zou, V. Derlich, K. Gandhi, M. Park, L. Sun, D. Kriz, Y. D. Lee, G. Kim, J. J. Aklonis and R. Salovey, "Model Filled Polymers I. Synthesis of Crosslinked Monodisperse Polystyrene Beads," J. Polym. Sci.: Part A: Polym. Chem., 28, 1909-1921 (1990).
- 2. D. Zou, S. Ma, R. Guan, M. Park, L. Sun, J. J. Aklonis and R. Salovey, "Model Filled Polymers V. Synthesis of Crosslinked Monodisperse Polymethacrylate Beads," *J. Polym. Sci.: Polym. Chem.*, in press (1991).
- 3. D. Zou, J. J. Aklonis and R. Salovey, "Model Filled Polymers XI. Synthesis of Monodisperse Crosslinked Polymethacrylonitrile Beads," *J. Polym. Sci.: Polym. Chem.*, submitted (1991).
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## Personnel Who Participated in the Research

Valerie Derlich - graduate student

Ruiling Guan - graduate student

Gia Y. Kim - graduate student

Dennis Kriz - graduate student

Hemant Manohar - graduate student

Moonsoo Park - graduate student

Abhay Sawant - graduate student

Liqing Sun - graduate student

Min Wei Chen - visiting scholar

Zheng-You Ding - visiting scholar

Guoshu He - visiting scholar

Shen Min Ma - visiting scholar

Dezhong Zou - visiting scholar

Fute Chen - visiting scholar

Khushroo Gandhi - post-doctoral fellow

Young D. Lee - post-doctoral fellow

Cheng-Xue Li - post-doctoral fellow

John J. Aklonis - principal investigator

Ronald Salovey - principal investigator